

The accident has been enquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle, who has concluded that the accident was caused by unidentified passenger of mini bus who had snatched keys from the Gateman by force and opened one end of the gate in the face of approaching train. As a result of this accident, five occupants of the mini bus died on the spot.

(c) The number of accidents at manned and unmanned level crossings and number of human lives lost in these accidents during the last three years in the country are as under :

Year	Manned Level Crossings		Unmanned Level Crossings	
	No. of accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of accidents	No. of persons killed
1993-94	12	22	54	146
1994-95	19	52	54	147
1995-96	16	28	52	117

(d) Some of the steps taken by the Railways to prevent accidents at level crossings are as under :

- (i) Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on the road approaches to unmanned level crossings so that the road vehicles may reduce their speed.
- (ii) Errant Railway Staff liable for causing accidents at manned level crossings are taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules and are punished.
- (iii) Accidents at unmanned level crossings occur due to the negligence of road users who cross the level crossing without observing the precautions stipulated in Section 131 of the Motor Vehicles Act. Appeals are issued from time to time to road users to cooperate with the Railway Gatemen and not to intimidate them while performing their duties.
- (iv) Whistle boards are provided alongside the rail track on approach of level crossings to advise the train driver to whistle to warn the road users about the approaching train.
- (v) To educate the road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaign is launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slide, talks on radio and advertisements in newspapers and periodicals.
- (vi) Surprise checks are conducted to ensure alertness of the Gatemen.
- (vii) State Governments are requested from time to time to exercise strict checks while issuing driving licences, especially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy traffic vehicles.

### Private Airlines Collaboration

1051. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Private Airlines which have sought permission to enter into collaborations with Foreign Airlines;

(b) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Out of the seven scheduled private domestic airlines, only M/s Jet Airways has equity of foreign airlines/NRI. Recently M/s. Modiluft Ltd. has been permitted foreign direct investment (FDI) through GDR issue.

The following Companies having permit/NOC to operate air transport service, also have foreign/NRI equity :-

1. M/s. Elbee Airlines (Permit holder for air cargo services);
2. M/s. Bengal Air Services Ltd. (NOC holder for scheduled air services);
3. M/s. Lufthansa Cargo India Ltd. (NOC holder for operating air cargo services);
4. M/s. T.C.G. Aviation Pvt. Ltd. (Application for NOC to operate air cargo services under consideration).

The following companies have submitted proposals for foreign/NRI equity participation to operate domestic air services :-

1. M/s. Tata Industries Ltd.
2. M/s. Ultima Assets & Investment (P) Ltd.
3. M/s. Choice Airlines
4. M/s. Trans India Airlines Pvt. Ltd.
5. M/s. Assured Airways Ltd.
6. M/s. Deccan Airways Ltd.

(b) and (c) The modalities for permitting foreign equity and NRI equity participation in the domestic air transport services sector are under formulation.

### Production of Steel

1052. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of steel plants in the country in which steel is being produced as per installed capacity;

(b) whether the Government propose to modernise Burnpur Steel Plant;

(c) if so, the time by which modernisation work is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?